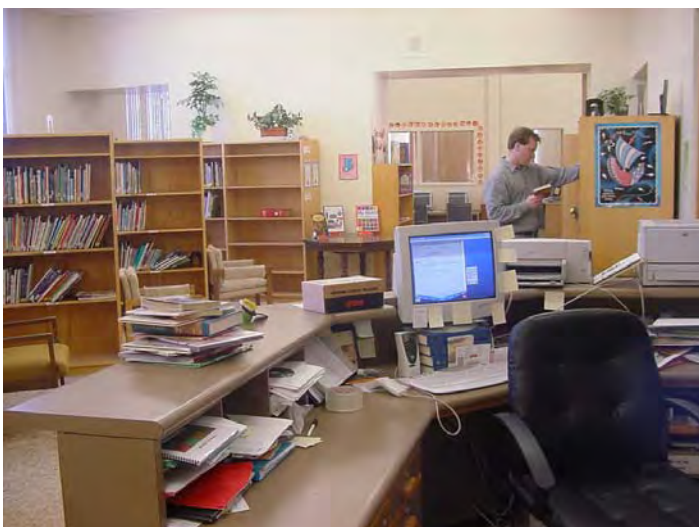


# Merging Multiple Images

*Using Adobe Photoshop Elements*

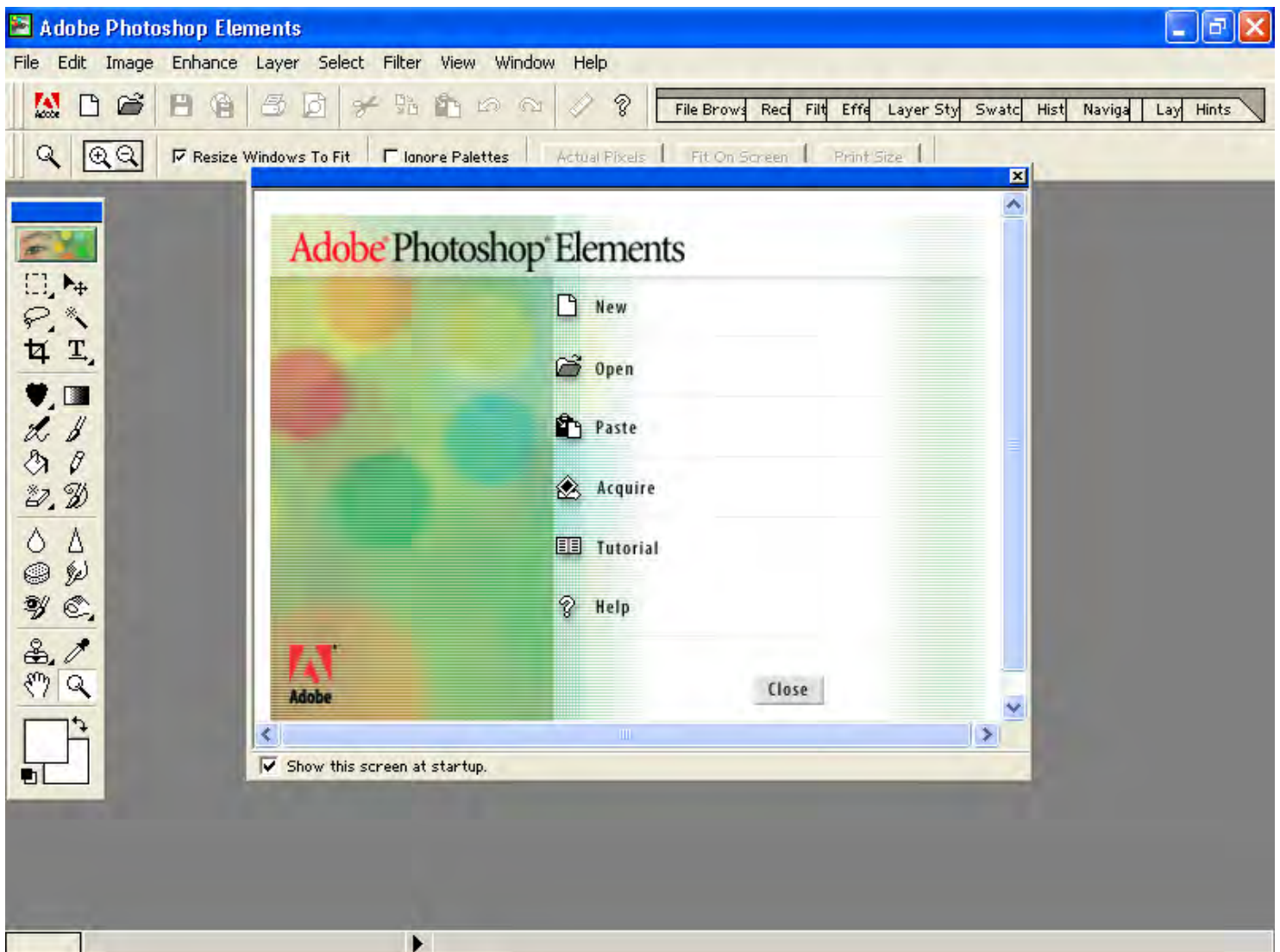


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**(2005)**

## Merging Multiple Images

The following steps will explain how you can combine many different images from different photos. The result is that you will have one picture with many different images of yourself in various positions and poses.

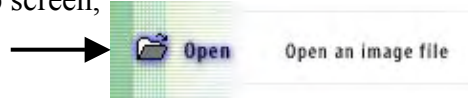
- Step 1:** *Plan, plan, plan!!!*. Before a single photograph is taken, you should plan out exactly the various positions and poses that you will use for the different photos. This will make your final product more “believable”!
- Step 2:** To make things easy, use a digital camera on a tripod. This will make sure that the background stays the same (constant) and it will allow the images to easily blend with one another.
- Step 3:** Take the various photos while making sure that the tripod and the camera remain in the *exact same position*. You can do this by yourself using a timing setting on the digital camera, or you can have a partner take the pictures for you. (Working with a partner will make things much easier.)
- Step 4:** Transfer the images from the digital camera to the computer. (I would suggest that you create a folder with your name on it to store all of the photos. This will make locating them later much easier.)
- Step 5:** Log onto your computer and start the program called **Adobe Photoshop Elements**.



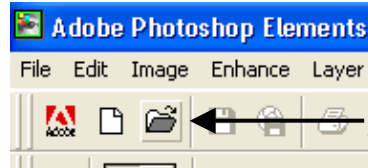
## Using the Adobe Photoshop Elements Software

**Step 6:** Before you can start manipulating the images using **Adobe Photoshop Elements**, you have to **“Open”** them into the program. There are several different ways that a file can be opened:

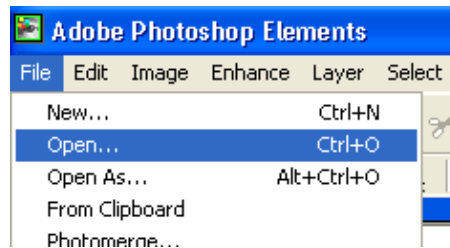
a.) Use the **“Open”** option from the start-up screen,



b.) Or, click on the **“Open Folder”** icon near the top left corner of the screen,

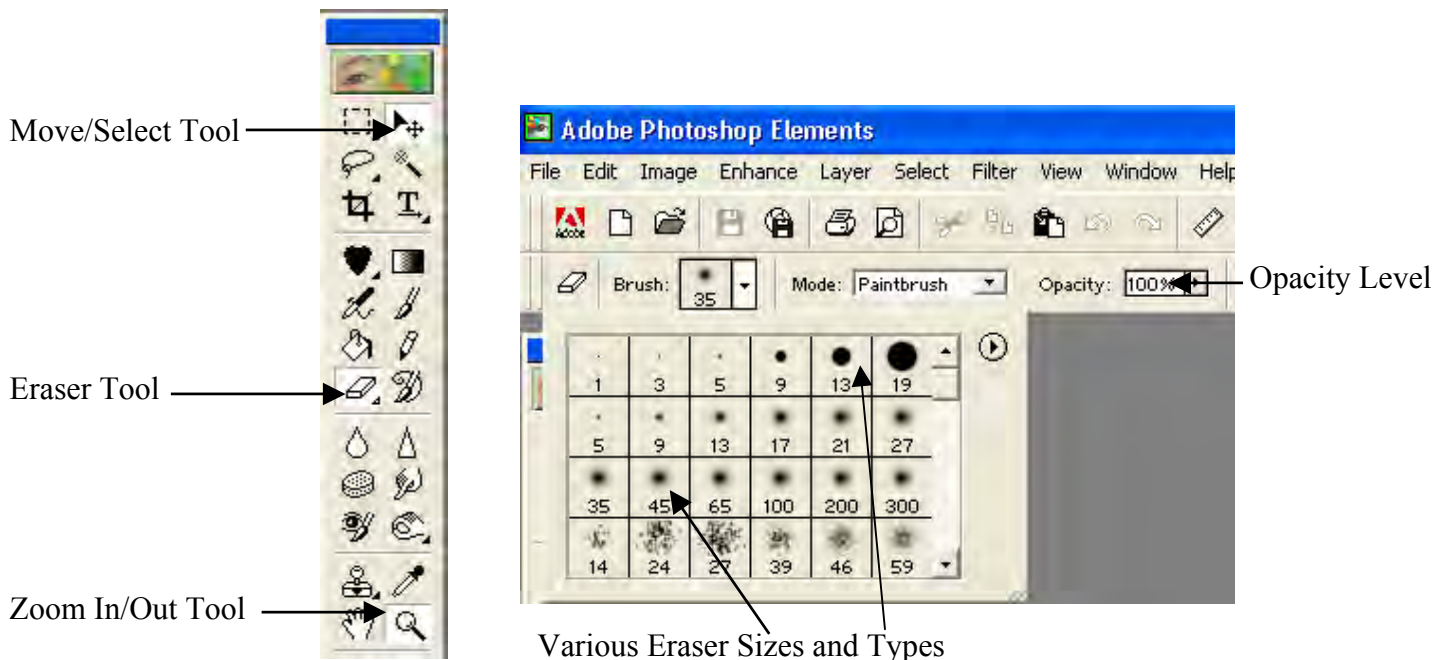


c.) Or, click on the word **“File”** at the top left of the screen, then go down to **“Open”**.

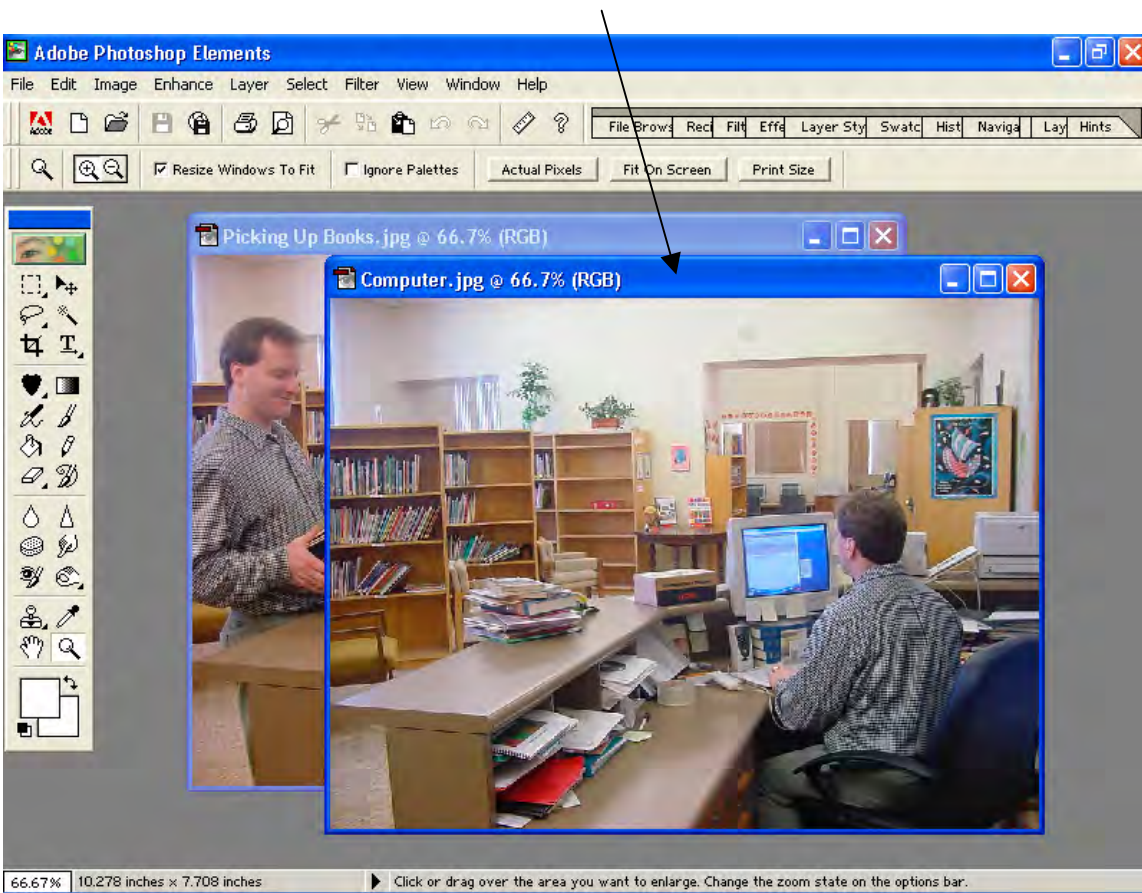


It does not matter which method you use. Each of these methods will work. Whichever method you choose, you will then have to navigate to the folder in which you have the various images. Once you locate the photos, begin by opening any **two** of your images.

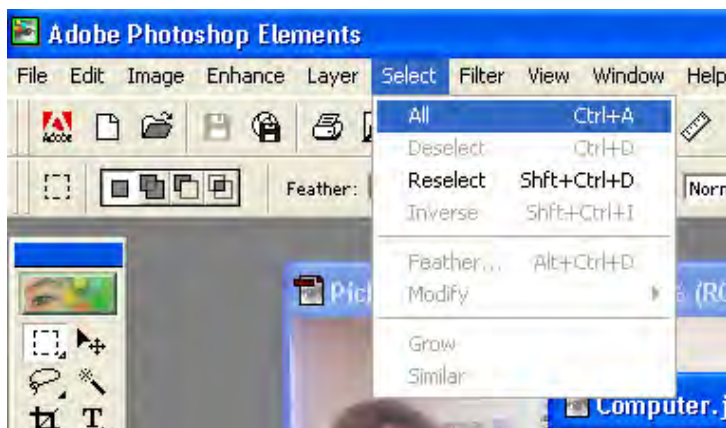
***Before I explain how the images are combined, I will identify the various tools that you will be using to create your multiple image photo:***



**Step 7:** You should now have two of the images open on your screen. (I would suggest starting with images that will not show you “overlapping” with yourself.) You will need to pick one of these images to make it *active* before you can begin. To do this, use the *Move/Select Tool*, and click on one of the photos. Once you do this, the outline around the window containing the image will turn **dark blue**.



**Step 8:** On the top menu bar, click on “*Select*”, and then go down and choose “*All*”. You will then see black and white “marching ants” moving around the image to show you that the entire area is selected.

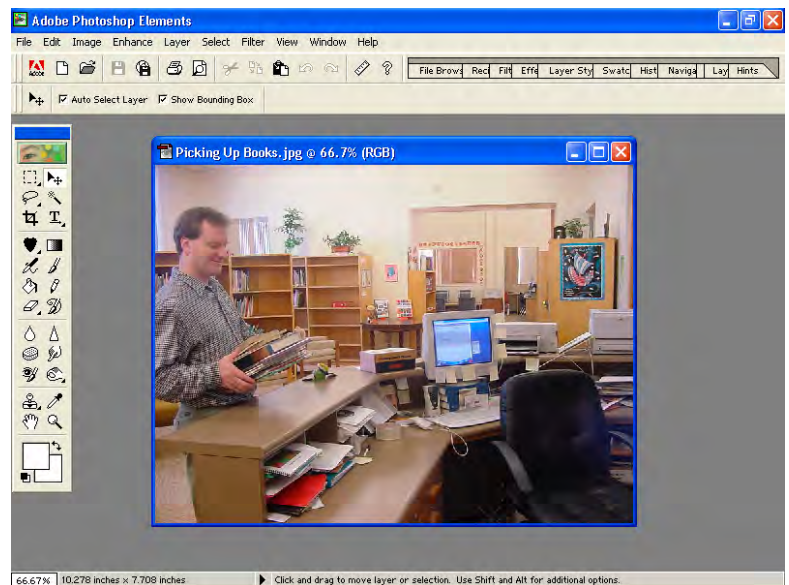
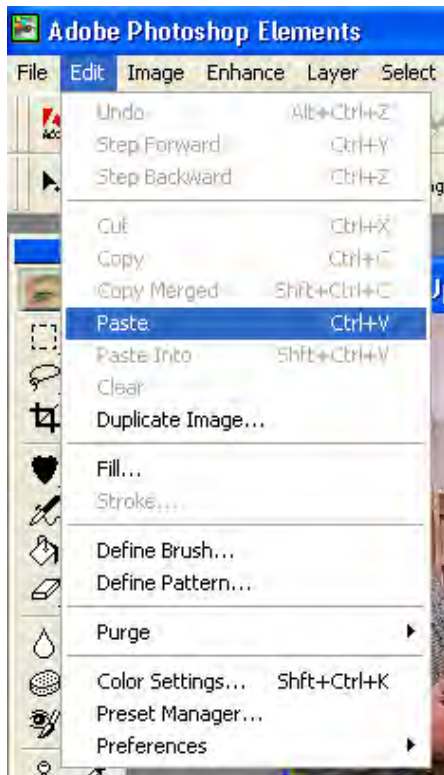


**Step 9:** On the top menu bar, click on “*Edit*”, and then go down and choose “*Copy*”. This will copy the entire image into the computer’s memory. (Now you can close that image by clicking on the red “X” in the top right corner of the window containing the photo. You should not need to use this photo again during this process.)

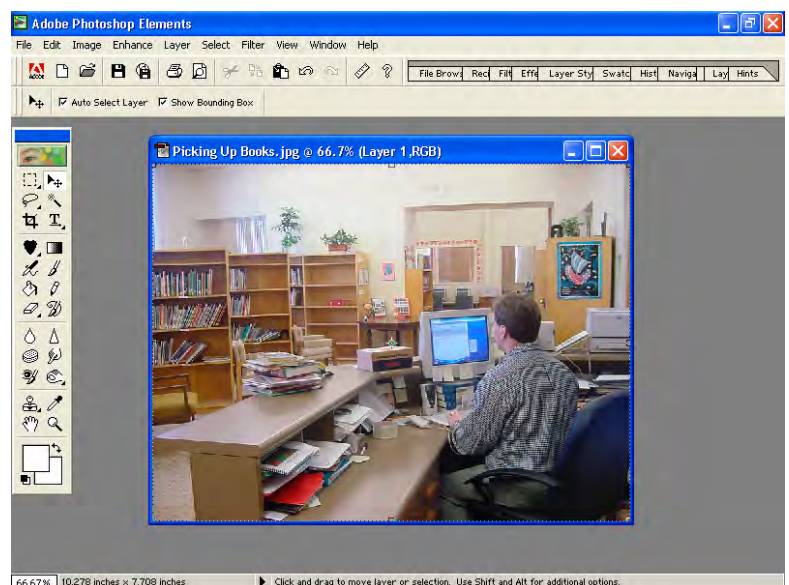
**Step 10:** Using the *Select/Move Tool*, click on the other image. This will become the photo onto which you will paste the initial image. (When you do this, the window around this image will then turn **dark blue**.) This will make this second photo become *active*.

**Step 11:** On the top menu bar, click on *“Edit”*, and then go down and choose *“Paste”*. This will paste the previous image, that is currently stored in the computer’s memory, *“OVER”* the first image. (It will appear as if you have just changed this picture to the second image, but you haven’t.)

*Before you paste the image...*



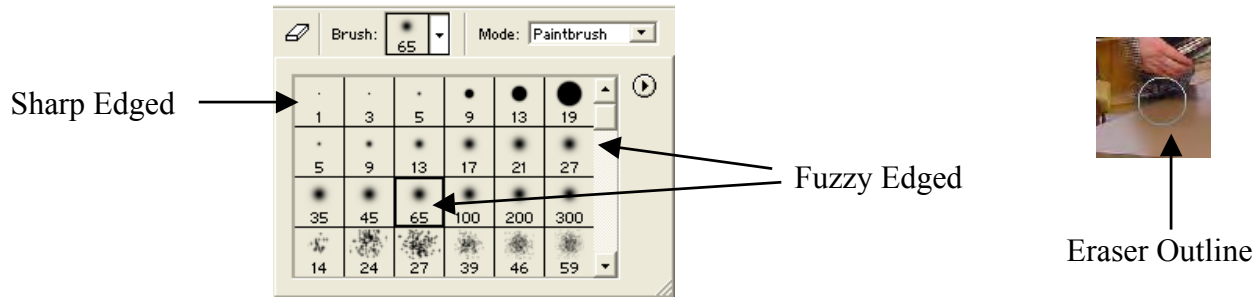
*After you paste it the image...*



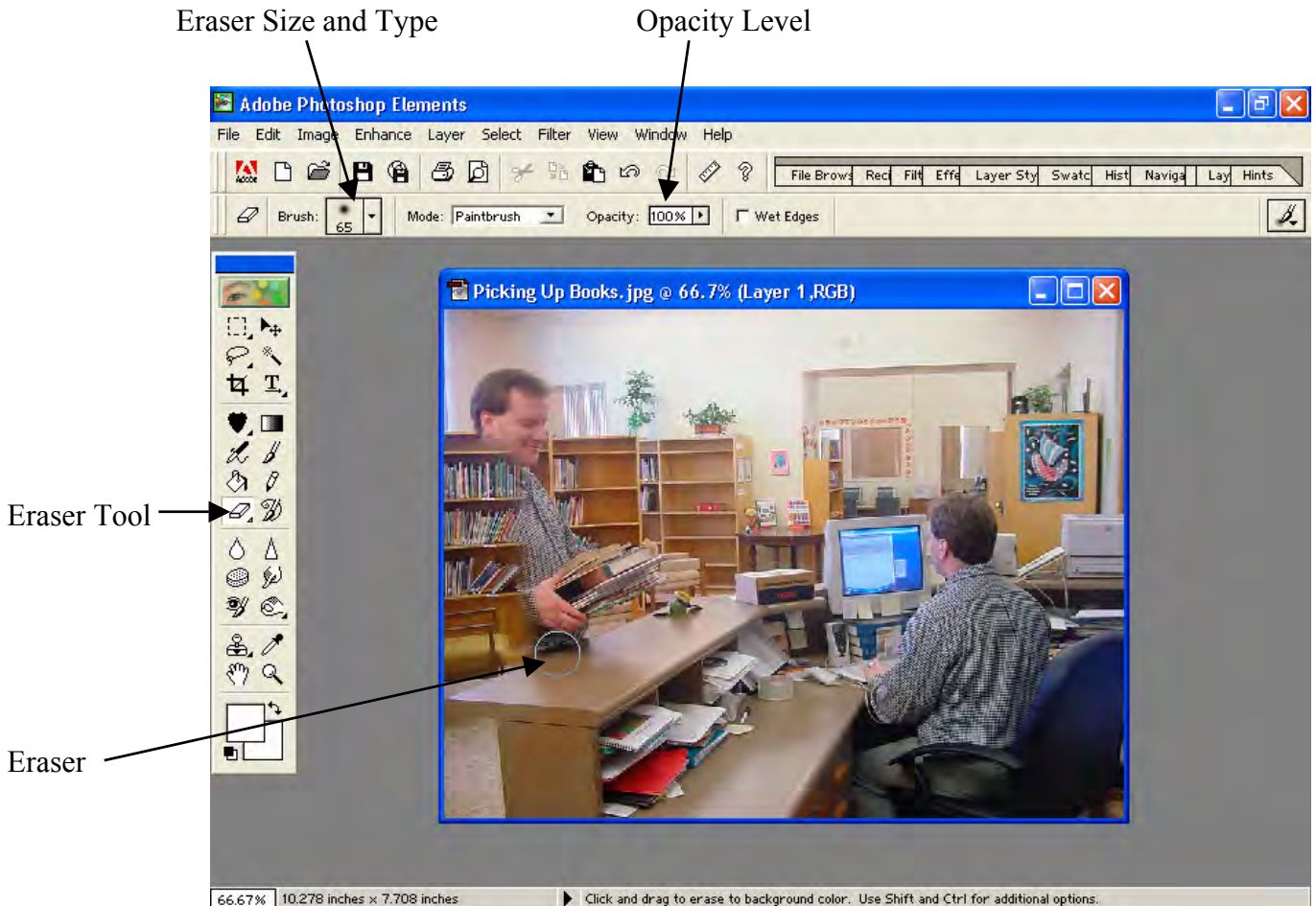
**Note:** Adobe Photoshop Elements works in what they call *“layers”*. So, what happened is that the first layer is still there, underneath the image that you just pasted on top. For the example here, the image of the person lifting up the books from the counter is now the bottom layer, and the second layer is the image of the person sitting in the chair at the computer. Both of the images are still there, but you can only see the top layer right now.

**Step 12:** From the “Tools” on the left side of the screen, select the “Eraser” tool.

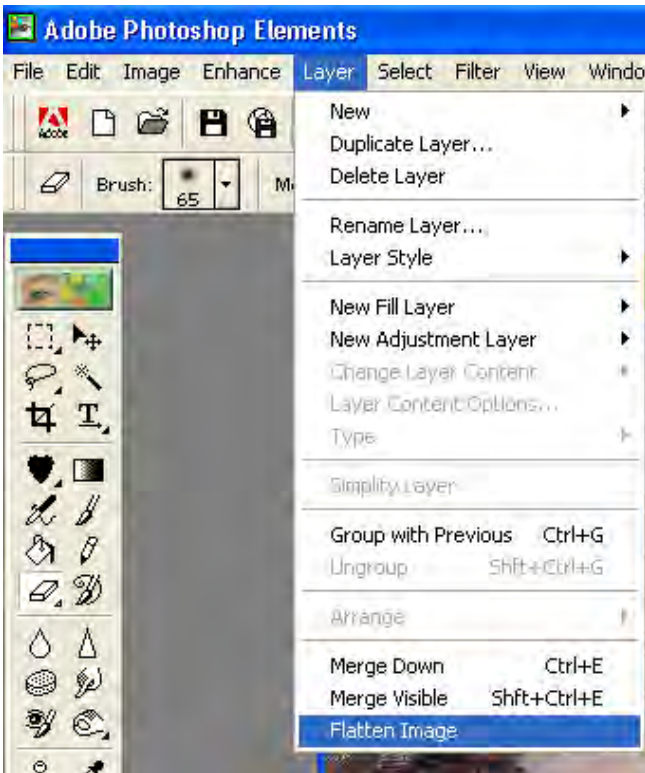
**Note:** Make sure that you are using an appropriate “eraser size”. I would suggest starting out with an eraser with a size of about 65 to start. I would also suggest using one of the “fuzzy edged” erasers as it makes the blending of the images more seamless. (The sharp edged erasers are great for fine detail, but for the most part, they are not necessary.) Once you select an eraser type and size, simply move the eraser (mouse) over the active image and you will see an outline showing you how big/small the eraser actually is. If the size does not appear appropriate, go back and choose another eraser. Also, be sure that the “Opacity Level” is set to 100%!!



**Step 13:** Move the eraser over top of the image. Begin erasing the area of this top layer where you know that there is a person located underneath within the bottom layer. Doing this will reveal that portion of the image from the bottom layer. Continue to erase until the entire desired portion of the image below has been fully revealed. When you finish, you should have two images of the same person within one photo.



**Step 14:** On the top menu bar, click on “**Layer**” and then go down and choose “**Flatten Image**”. Doing this will merge (glue) the two layers together. Now the two layers have become one layer. I would suggest that you now save this image and call it something like, “Mixed2”.



**Step 15:** Now that you have combined the first two photos, you can continue to merge a third image. To do this, simply “**Open**” another one of your photos, and then go back and repeat [Step 7](#) to [Step 14](#). Repeat these steps over and over until you have combined all of your images.

### A Few More Suggestions:

- You should resave your combined images as new files each time you merge a new image. File names such as Mixed3.jpg, 4\_of\_Me.jpg, etc. make it easy to identify your most recent version. Saving often will save you time, effort and headaches in case something terrible happens (computer freezes, power surge, etc.).
- When copying an image and pasting it onto another photo, whenever possible you should try to copy the photo with the multiple images and paste it onto the photo with a single image. This will eliminate extra erasing and minimize the time that it will take you to finish your work.
- When you are erasing a portion of the image where you visually overlap with yourself, you will need to be very careful!! I would suggest that you “**Zoom In**” and use a much smaller eraser size. This is also a good time to use an eraser that has a *sharper edge* as opposed to the *fuzzy edged* erasers.
- When working with two images that overlap visually, it is usually easier to merge the images if you copy the image that is in the foreground and paste it onto the one in the background. Then you can erase around the image in the foreground (on the top layer) and reveal the image on the bottom layer (in the background).
- **Don’t panic!** If at anytime you notice that you accidentally erase part of an image and you can’t “undo” the error, it’s okay. You can always fix this by copying the photo containing the multiple images and pasting it back onto that same single image photo. Then you can erase the area of the mistake to once again reveal the portion that you accidentally removed earlier.
- **HAVE FUN!!**